

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, RP
SUBJECT: SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 067001

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED REFTTEL AND IMPLEMENTATION SSA IN
PHILIPPINES WITH AID DIRECTOR CODY. HE HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

2. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE OR NO DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING A SATISFACTORY BENEFICIARY-ORIENTED PACKAGE OF PROJECTS TOTALING \$130-\$150 MILLION U.S. RESOURCES OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FROM THE GOP FIVE-YEAR PLAN, WE WONDER IF CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN AS WELL TO A COMMODITY IMPORT ALTERNATIVE WHICH COULD ALSO BE DRAWN UP IN TERMS OF TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES. IMPORTATION OF ITEMS SUCH AS FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES, AND PHARMACEUTICALS, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT WELL BE DEMONSTRATED TO BENEFIT PRIMARILY LOWER INCOME GROUPS, OR THE PROGRAM COULD BE DESIGNED TO HAVE SUCH AN EFFECT. THERE PROBABLY ARE ENOUGH SUCH COMMODITIES IMPORTED FROM THE U.S. TO USE UP THE ENTIRE ANTICIPATED AMOUNTS. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD HAVE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES OVER A PROJECT PACKAGE.

A. IT WOULD REQUIRE FEWER U.S. AND FILIPINO USAID
STAFF. THIS WOULD VARY, DEPENDING ON THE DEGREE OF END
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USE CHECKING REQUIRED AND THE DEGREE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT
IN THE PROGRAMMING AND MONITORING OF ANY LOCAL CURRENCY
GENERATED.

B. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD BE MORE CLEARLY SEPARATE
FROM THE "REGULAR" DEVELOPMENT, GRANT AND LOAN, AND
PL 480 PROGRAM.

C. TO THE EXTENT THAT LOCAL CURRENCY WAS GENERATED, SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO THE GOP.

D. GENERALLY UNDER AID RULES SUCH PROGRAMS REQUIRE LESS DAY-TO-DAY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT THAN DO PROJECTS WHICH REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION.

3. WE CAN DRAW UP A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OLANGAPO AND ANGELES CITY AS AN EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT LOAN/GRANT AID PROGRAM. BOTH CITIES, ARE, IN FACT, INCLUDED IN THE RURAL SERVICE CENTER PROGRAM THOUGH THIS IS CURRENTLY PLANNED AS A RATHER MODEST EFFORT. ADDITIONAL STAFF MAY WELL BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN EFFORT--BOTH DIRECT HIRE AND CONTRACT. ONCE AN APPROPRIATE STAGE IS REACHED AND A NOTION OF MAGNITUDE IS DECIDED, OUR IN-HOUSE STAFF COULD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOP DELINEATE THE GENERAL AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT. WE WOULD NEED SHORT-TERM SPECIALISTS TO FURTHER REFINE THE PROPOSAL, HOWEVER.

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